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Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
DODE-00 NSC-05 /064 R

DRAFTED BY OSD/ISA:CVMCLAUGHLIN/EUR/RPM:JAFROEBE,JR:MEM
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:WSHINN, JR.
JS/J-5:COL. SUTTON (INFORMED)
ISA:GEN.BOWMAN
----------130457Z 048483 /13
P R 130117Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
INFO USNMR SHAPE
USDELMC
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT

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NOFORN

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, NAC, AWACS

SUBJECT:IMPROVEMENT OF NATO DEFENSES IN NORTHAG AREA

REFS: A. USNATO 1500, DTG 161840Z MAR 77; B. USNATO 1889,
DTG 011458Z APR 77

1. IN PREPARING US DEFENSE IMPROVEMENT IMPACT MEASURES TO PROPOSE AT THE MAY MEETINGS, WE HAVE FOCUSED ON SEVERAL OBJECTIVES:

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-- TO IMPART A SENSE OF FORWARD MOVEMENT TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF NATO'S CONVENTIONAL FORCES, A SENSE THAT WOULD BE ABSENT IF WE WERE ONLY QTE TO STUDY UNQTE THE PROBLEM IN A NATO DEFENSE REVIEW. THE IMPACT MEASURES THUS WOULD REINFORCE, NOT SUPPLANT, THE LONGER-TERM DEFENSE REVIEWS WHICH WE MAY PROPOSE.

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-- TO INDUCE COMPLEMENTARY ALLIED ACTION NECESSARY FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE MEASURES. THIS WOULD GIVE SUBSTANCE TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S STATEMENT TO THE NAC LAST JANUARY THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS WILLING TO CONSIDER INCREASED US INVESTMENT IN NATO'S DEFENSE, IF OUR ALLIES WILL JOIN THE EFFORT TO THE EXTENT OF THEIR ABILITIES. SECRETARY VANCE'S LETTER TO SYG LUNS, WHICH WAS

CIRCULATED TO PERMREPS, MENTIONED SEVERAL STEPS THE US IS TAKING TO INCREASE THE CAPABILITIES OF US FORCES COMMITTED TO NATO. WE WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT LUNS' RECENT FOLLOW-UP TO THE MONDALE FORMULA ELICITED SUCH A WEAK RESPONSE FROM OUR ALLIES, (REF A). CONSEQUENTLY, WE BELIEVE THAT DISCUSSION OF PARALLEL IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD BE STRUCTURED MORE CAREFULLY, AND SHOULD PROVIDE BOTH TIME AND A FRAMEWORK FOR ALLIED REACTIONS WHICH WERE ABSENT FROM LUNS' EFFORT.

-- TO PROPOSE SPECIFIC DEFENSE IMPROVEMENT IMPACT MEASURES, AND INVITE COMPLEMENTARY ALLIED RESPONSES, THAT WOULD LEAD LOGICALLY INTO A STUDY OF THE WHOLE OF THAT PARTICULAR CONVENTIONAL FORCE WEAKNESS -- IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DEFENSE REVIEW AS A WHOLE.

2. THE PROPOSAL THAT FOLLOWS IS THE FIRST OF SEVERAL DEFENSE IMPROVEMENT MEASURES WE HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR THE MAY MEETINGS. IT APPEARS TO US THAT AN AREA WHERE CERTAIN OF OUR ALLIES COULD MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION WHICH WOULD HAVE A PROMPT AND IMPORTANT

EFFECT ON NATO DEFENSE WOULD BE ENHANCEMENT OF THE READINESS AND OVERALL CAPABILITY OF THEIR FORCES IN NORTHAG. IN RESPONSE TO A PROPOSAL FROM SACEUR, THE US IS PROCEEDING WITH PLANS TO DEPLOY AN ARMORED INFANTRY BRIGADE TO NORTHAG, NEAR GARLSTEDT, BY END-FY 78. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THIS DEPLOYMENT IS AN ESSENTIAL MANIFESTATION OF ALLIANCE RESOLVE, AND AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF STRATEGIC MALPOSITIONING IN THE CENTRAL REGION. THE US DEPLOYMENT WILL CONSTITUTE A CONSIDERABLE UPGRADING OF NATO'S CAPABILITY IN THE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT NORTH GERMAN PLAIN.

3. WE ARE CONSIDERING A REINFORCEMENT PACKAGE FOR AFCENT RESERVE WHEREIN THE GARLSTEDT BRIGADE WOULD BE THE LEAD ELEMENT OF A WARTIME THREE DIVISION CORPS AVAILABLE TO REINFORCE NORTHAG. TO MAKE THIS A REALITY WE WOULD EXPECT COMPLEMENTARY MEASURES ON THE PART OF OUR ALLIES.

4. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE INITIATION OF A COORDINATED

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IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMONG NATIONS CONTRIBUTING FORCES TO NORTHAG INCLUDING THE US. INDIVIDUAL NATIONS AND SACEUR WILL, OF COURSE, BE IN BEST POSITION TO DETERMINE WHAT SPECIFIC ACTIONS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. HOWEVER, WE FEEL AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

A. UK:

(1) MAINTAIN MANPOWER MANNING AND TRAINING OF NATO

COMMITTED LAND FORCES, INCLUDING MEDICAL AND OTHER LOGISTIC UNITS, AT LEAST AT THE MINIMUM LEVELS REQUIRED BY ACE FORCES STANDARDS.

(2) IMPROVE THE PEACETIME LOCATION OF MAL-LOCATED FORCES, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON COVERING FORCES. TO THE EXTENT THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, INCREASE THEIR READINESS TO

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DEPLOY TO GDP POSITIONS, WHEREVER THIS LAGS BEHIND AFCENT REQUIREMENTS.

(3) REPLACE, WHERE ,RACTICABLE, RESERVIST UNITS EARMARKED AS REINFORCEMENT FOR THE I BRITISH CORPS BY REGULAR UNITS STATIONED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND IN GENERAL, INCREASE READINESS OF ALL REINFORCING UNITS NOW CURRENTLY DEPLOYING BY M'5 OR 6 TO POINT WHERE THEY CAN DEPLOY TO GDP POSITIONS WITHIN 48 HOURS.

B. NETHERLANDS:

(1) INITIATE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE PEACETIME LOCATIONS OF ALL MALPOSITIONED FORCES PLACING PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE COVERING FORCES. AS A MINIMUM AUGMENT THE GROUND FORCE SITUATION IN THE FRG BY POSITIONING ONE ADDITIONAL BRIGADE AND ONE DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN THE FRG IN PEACETIME. TO THE EXTENT RELOCATION IS NOT FEASIBLE, PLACE ALL M-DAY UNITS IN STATE OF READINESS TO MOVE OUT WITHIN 12 HOURS.

(2) EXERCISE AS FAR FORWARD AND AS FREQUENTLY AS POSSIBLE TO MINIMIZE REACTION TIME AND GAIN KNOWLEDGE OF THE TERRAIN.

(3) CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT THE PLANNED MECHANIZATION OF THE 5TH NL DIVISION.

C. BELGIUM:

(1) REDUCE REACTION TIME OF THE 12TH RESERVE BRIGADE TO

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MAKE IT AVAILABLE IN GDP POSITION AT M 5 VICE M 15.

(2) RECONSIDER RESERVE UNIT ASSIGNMENTS AND ENHANCE READINESS TO PROVIDE GREATER REINFORCEMENT FOR THE BELGIAN CORPS AREA.

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(3) MAINTAIN ITS PRESENT LEVEL OF BRIGADES DEPLOYED FORWARD IN THE FRG.

D. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY:

(1) IMPROVE THE PEACETIME LOCATION OF MAL-LOCATED FORCES, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON COVERING FORCES LOCATED CLOSE TO THEIR WAR LOCATIONS EAST OF THE RHINE.

(2) ORGANIZE RESERVE UNITS FOR ADDITIONAL REINFORCEMENT OF NORTHAG.

(3) ASSIST IN LOCATING SUITABLE CASERNES FOR APPROPRIATE BASING OF ADDITIONAL DUTCH AND US UNITS IN NORTHAG.

E. ALL EUROPEAN NATIONS: DEVELOP FIRM PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR EARLY USE OF A NATO CIVIL AIRLIFT POOL TO SUPPLEMENT EXISTING AND PLANNED INTRA-THEATER AND INTER-THEATER AIRLIFT.

5. WE WOULD LIKE THE MAY DPC MINISTERIAL TO DISCUSS NORTHAG IMPROVEMENTS EITHER IN RESPONSE TO SHAPE RECOM-MENDATIONS OR US INITIATIVES IN RESTRICTED SESSION. IMPROVED ANTITANK CAPABILITY AND INCREASED AMMUNITION WAR STOCKS WOULD ALSO BE PART OF NORTHAG PACKAGE, BUT WE WILL ADDRESS THOSE GOALS IN SEPTEL. WE WOULD WELCOME MISSION VIEWS ON ABOVE. THIS SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS AT THIS POINT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE082503
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CVMCLAUGHLIN/EUR/RPM:JAFROEBE,JR:MEM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2819698
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPROVEMENT OF NATO DEFENSES IN NORTHAG AREA
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, NATO, NAC
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3d4f35a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009